Conference of Tourism Ministers

1811. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDRE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Ministers of Tourism was held in New Delhi on the December 11, 1991;

(b) whether the Conference recommended amongst others that tourism be treated as an Industry and that a single window clearance of tourism projects be ensured; and

(c) if so, what decisions have been taken on these recommendations and what action has been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Conference was held on December 10, 1991.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Conference has recommended single window clearance of tourism projects in Special Tourism Areas and also to accord tourism the status of an industry.

The State Governments have to take the final decision on these recommendations and the matter has been referred to them.

Contract for the export of wheat

1812. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that India has contracted certain foreign countries for the export of wheat last year;

(b) if so, what is the quantity and names of the countries with which the contracts were made indicating the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) what is the total quantity of wheat shipped, so far, country-wise and what is the quantity to be shipped by the end of March, 1992?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC) and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) entered into contracts for export of wheat.

(b) and (c) The quantities and names of the countries with which STC and MMTC had entered into contracts and the terms and conditions thereof are as under:

During 1990-91 and 1991-92, MMTC and STC had entered into contracts for export of wheat with buyers in London, Dubai, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Jordan, and DPR of Korea for the following quantities:

Country	Quantity (Metric Tonnes) (1990-92 upto 20.2.1992)
United Kingdom	1,85,000
Dubai	2,10,000
Singapore	1,00,000
Hong Kong	1,35,000
Malaysia	4,500
Jordan	3,50,000
DPR of Korea	2,00,000
Thailand	6,000
TOTAL:	11,90,500

In the case of contracts on free on board (f.o.b.) basis, the ultimate destination of each shipment is decided by the buyers at the time of each shipment.

Quantity of wheat shipped country-wise during 1990-91 and 1991-92 (upto 20.2.92) is given below:

Country	Quantity (Metric Tonnes) 1990-91	1991-92 (upto 20.2.92)
Sudan	35,767	35,100
Dubai	—	25,100
Malaysia	—	75,000
Any Malaysian/Singapore/ Sri Lanka Port	—	19,200
United Arab Emirates	—	23,300
Phillipines	—	33,100
Any Asian Port	—	42,200
DPR Of Korea	76,517	1,39,552
Jordan	88,742	2,73,403
Thailand	—	6,154
	2,01,026	6,72,109

The export MMTC have been mostly around US $116 per tonne on Cost and Freight basis, while the exports of STC have been mostly around US $ 95 per tonne on FOB basis.

It has been decided to restrict further

export of wheat, as far as possible keeping in view the contractual obligations, during the current financial year.

Enhanced Rate of Exim Scrips

1813. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there is any proposal to allow enhanced rate of Exim Scrips to Hotels/Restaurants and Travel Agents;

(b) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that the Hotels and Travel Agencies are claiming extra Exim Scrips on the Tourist earnings of other Organisation Like Airlines; and

(c) if so, what action are taken by Government that Exim-Scrips are permitted only on their own earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) A proposal to give Exim Scrips to Tourism Industry including Hotels was made but before a final view could be taken in the matter partial convertibility of the Rupee was announced and Exim Scrips have been abolished by the Government w.e.f. 29.2.92.

(b) and (c) Exim Scrips were not admissible to Hotels and Tourism Industry against their foreign exchange earnings and therefore question of claiming Exim Scrips against earnings by other Organisation like Airlines etc. does not arise.

Export and Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

1814. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Homoeopathic medicines including combination, patents, specialities, biochemic tablets are permitted for import under the provisions of Open General Licence;

(b) whether the country is exporting the above medicines; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for allowing import of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Import and export of Homoeopathic medicines including combination, patents, specialities, biochemic tablets is permitted freely.

(c) Import of Homoeopathic medicines is being permitted on quality considerations.

Squabbling over Imported Rubber Between S.T.C. and Tyre Firms

1815. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of pricing and quality of imported rubber has become a bone of contention between the State Trading Corporation and the tyre industries;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for squabbling over imported rubber between State Trading Corporation and tyre firms; and

(c) what steps his Ministry proposes to take in consultation with the Ministry of Industry to resolve this dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) There is no squabbling between State Trading Corporation and the tyre industries on the issue of pricing and quality of imported rubber. Terms, including price, of STC's offer for sale of their imported stocks of rubber are under discussion with the industry.

Strategy of Exim Scrips

1816. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any Committee to examine all aspects of the operational strategies of Exim Scrips;

(b) if so, what is the term of reference together with the composition of such Committee;

(c) by when its report is likely to be submitted to Government;

(d) whether the report has already been made available to Government; and